

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 October 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.00pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs J E O'Sullivan, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, H Thresher.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S M Biggs, Ms S L Forde, Mrs S J Hunter, I G C Pearson.

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the insertion of the word "bridge" in the second line of the second paragraph of Minute 4.21.

5.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported

- that his Council's waste collection contractors were reporting that some of the material collected from recycling bins was contaminated, that the contractors could decline to collect contaminated material, and that information about what should be presented for recycling was on his Council's website;
- that the latest round of his Council's capital grants' scheme had opened;
- on continuing monitoring of air quality across the District;
- that grants were available to encourage older persons to take up sport and exercise.

5.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, covering, inter alia,

- consultation on changes to children's centres and early intervention;
- the County Council's responsibilities towards unaccompanied asylum seekers;
- the High Sheriff's 2015 Community Integration Award.

5.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council noted the [Police] Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for October 2015, supplied by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police.

5.05 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 4.05/15) In presenting her apologies for absence, the Chairman of the Council had circulated a map showing the present boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the Parish, and the area which the Council wished, in principle, to have included in the AONB.

RESOLVED: That the circulated map be adopted for the intended local consultation on the proposed change to the boundary of Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Parish.

5.06 PLAY AREAS

(cf 4.07/15) The Clerk advised that he was in dialogue with officers of the District Council about

the provision of a dog hygiene bin at the Kidmore End Play Area.

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of the Council had arranged meetings with equipment manufacturers and suppliers about further refurbishment of the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

5.07 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 4.09/15) Mr H Thresher advised that he had approached contractors to BT plc about re-orientating the telephone kiosk at Kidmore End. The contractors had informally quoted a price of £400 for the work. Mr Thresher commented that he had also discussed the matter with Mr R S Young of Vines Farm, who might be able to assist with the exercise.

5.08 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 4.15/15) By e-mail, a Senior Audit Manager of BDO LLP, restated, in response to the Council's expressed disappointment about the "issues arising" report, that the various boxes in Section 1 of the Annual Return form must be arithmetically reconcilable, notwithstanding any inaccuracies caused by roundings of figures.

Members concluded that there was nothing to be gained by pursuing the matter further.

5.09 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 4.18/15) The Council considered a report (15/16 - 1) of the Vice-Chairman of the Council arising from the meeting in September 2015 about enabling local communities to deliver services like highway grass cutting. She had subsequently asked officers of the County Council about the areas of highway verge in the Parish which were presently cut on behalf of the County Council, the frequency of those cuts and the likely funding to be provided, if the Council took on the function, but this information was not yet to hand

RESOLVED: That the relevant officer of the County Council be invited to address the Council at its next meeting about highway verge cutting in the Parish.

5.10 HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

(cf 4.22/15) The County Council's Deputy Director – Strategy & Infrastructure Planning acknowledged receipt of the Council's objection to the possible closure of the household waste recycling centre at Oakley Wood, which would be considered by the County Council's Cabinet alongside other responses to the consultation.

5.11 REV'D CANON G D FOULIS-BROWN

(cf 4.26/15) The Rev'd Canon G D Foulis-Brown, in a letter, thanked the Council for its recognition of his tenure of the incumbency of the [ecclesiastical] parish.

5.12 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 4.32/15) The Council noted updates from NHS, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, on behalf of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), on the proposals for future services at Townlands Hospital, Henley. The CCG had decided to proceed with the proposed model of care for the Townlands Hospital Health Campus and had issued a riposte to an article in the "Henley Standard" newspaper on 9 October 2015, which, it was claimed, presented a misleading picture of the treatment for terminally ill patients in south east Oxfordshire.

5.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £52,920.90

(ii) Accounts for payment

RESOLVED: That the following accounts, listed in the schedule under Financial Regulation 5.2, be approved for payment:

R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers	£12.00
Parish of Kidmore End & Sonning Common – Contribution towards maintenance of churchyard	£682.50

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2015, against the approved budget for 2015/16. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £1,020, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

5.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally:

erection of 2-storey side extension, removal of existing dormer window and erection of 3 dormer windows to front elevation at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of single storey rear and side extensions, first floor rear and side extensions and alterations to roof at Tember, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
replacement double garage with accommodation over and single storey side extension to dwelling at The Old Vicarage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

demolition of existing rear extension, erection of part 2-storey part single storey rear extensions and front entrance porch at Merville, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common.

(iii) Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Proposed development

By letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that he was processing an application seeking a certificate of lawful development for demolishing the existing rear utility room and erecting a single storey rear extension, also adding 2 rear pitched roof dormers and using K-Render to cover the existing property at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. He was, therefore, unable to take into account any comments on the planning merits of the proposal.

5.15 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

In letters, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council asked the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. Expenditure on maintenance of the churchyard had amounted to £1,365, "during in the past year".

Members observed that it had been the Council's practice over many years to make a grant, usually 50%, when requested, towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and that the approved budget for the current financial year contained provision of £1,200 for such a grant. Members also recalled that the budget for 2015/16 additionally contained provision for a "one-off" grant of £800 towards the repair of the churchyard wall.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £682.50 be made, in the current financial year, to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard of St John Baptist, Kidmore End.

5.16 KIDMORE END CE (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

By letter, the Chair of the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body of Kidmore End CE (Aided) Primary School advised that the body was consulting on proposed changes to their school admission criteria (numbers 2 and 3) with effect from the academic year 2017/18.

5.17 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

In an e-mail, Ms M Dunn (address unknown) had complained about a person spraying weedkiller at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, expressing concern that the solution used might have had a deleterious effect on her dogs. She went on to suggest that the person spraying the vegetation had been less helpful in responding to her enquiries of him. The Clerk had taken up the matter with Kidmore End Cricket Club, in case the complained-of works had formed part of the Club's routine grounds' maintenance arrangements. This had proved to be the case. The Club had subsequently erected a notice, pointing out that the south-east boundary of the Ground had been sprayed with an approved contact herbicide.

5.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in September 2015.

5.19 OXFORDSHIRE BEFRIENDING FOR LIFE

In a letter, a representative of Oxfordshire Befriending for Life (OxBEL) asked the Council to consider making a grant to the organisation, which was a local community service, run by Age UK Oxfordshire, which supported adults (over 300 in 2014) who were living with a terminal illness.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request for financial assistance be deferred to a future meeting.

5.20 COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET

The Council noted an invitation to a meeting for town and parish councils in Oxford on 9 November 2015, as part of the County Council's consultation on budget savings options being considered by that Council for the period 2016/7 to 2019/20, in order to achieve further reductions of £50m in net expenditure.

5.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Although it was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council, the Chairman of the Committee referred to damage caused to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, which it was believed to have occurred during a recent hiring for a party.

5.22 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Chairman advised that the Editorial Board had decided to resume quarterly publication of the Parish Newsletter, a decision which should have no financial implications for the Council.

5.23 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

Mr H Thresher reported on the meeting he had attended with the Minister of State for Digital Industries about the roll out of SuperFast Broadband, from which he had concluded that the situation in the Parish was much better than in some more rural areas of South Oxfordshire.